

Before the FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, DC 20554

In the Matter of 2002 Biennial Regulatory Review -
Review of the Commission's Broadcast Ownership Rules
and Other Rules Adopted Pursuant to Section 202
of the Telecommunications Act of 1996,
Notice of Proposed Rulemaking,
MM Docket No. 02-277, (rel. Sept. 23, 2002)

To: The Secretary, FCC Commissioners, and Chief, Media Bureau

I am writing to you today to comment on Docket No. 02-277, The Biennial Review of the FCC's broadcast media ownership rules. In its goals to promote competition, diversity and localism in today's media market, I strongly believe that the FCC should retain all of the current media ownership rules now in question. These rules serve the public interest by limiting the market power of already huge companies in the broadcast industry.

I do not believe that the studies commissioned by the FCC accurately demonstrate the negative affects media deregulation and consolidation have had on media diversity. While there may be indeed be more sources of media than ever before, the spectrum of views presented have become more limited.

The right to carry on informed debate and discussion of current events is part of the founding philosophy of our nation. Our forefathers believed that democracy was best served by a diverse marketplace of ideas. If the FCC allows our media outlets to merge, our ability to have open, informed discussion with a wide variety of viewpoints will be compromised.

The public interest will best be served by preserving media ownership rules in question in this proceeding.

In addition, I support the FCC's plan to hold a public hearing on this matter in Richmond, VA in February 2003. I strongly encourage the Commission to hold similar hearings in all parts of the country and solicit the widest possible participation from the public which will be the most directly affected by the outcomes of these decisions. I think it is important for the FCC to not only consider the points of view of those with a financial interest in this issue, but also those with a social or civic interest.

As an employee of one of these large media corporations, I feel that I am uniquely qualified to speak out on this issue. The airwaves belong to the people. Today's media giants seek only to increase their profit and stock price. Buying up as many stations as possible, firing the employees of those stations and/or breaking their unions, and then programming them to appeal to the least common denominator (both radio and television station groups do this) hardly fits with holding a license in the public interest.

I realize that television and radio hold great appeal as a profitable business, and I do not deny any business the right to make money. But only local owners truly know what a community needs and can properly hold a license in the public interest. We should be doing the opposite of what

is proposed- again establishing strict caps on the number of stations that a corporate owner can own nationwide- including the breaking up of television duopolies and limiting the number of radio stations in one market to two- one AM and one FM. And the ownership limit regarding owning a TV station and a newspaper in one market should NEVER be lifted.

With the serious impact these rule changes will have on our democracy, it is incumbent on the Commission to take the time to review these issues more thoroughly and allow the American people to have a meaningful say in the process.

Thank you,

Sincerely,

Bruce Leo Hart